

Friday, December 15, 2006

Chairman Rosenker meets with Secretary of Transportation

This week, Chairman Mark Rosenker met with the Honorable Mary E. Peters, Secretary of the Department of Transportation, and members of her staff. Joe Osterman and Elaine Weinstein joined the Chairman in the meeting. The Chairman and Secretary Peters met to discuss the working relationship between the NTSB and DOT. Other issues discussed included runway incursions, fuel tank integrity, work zone safety, positive train control, the pilot age 60 rule, corporate average fuel economy for passenger vehicles, speed differential on the highways, motorcycle safety and cell phone use. Both agencies will be celebrating their 40th anniversary in 2007.



L-R: Mark Busching, Assistant to the Secretary for Policy; Jeff Shane, Undersecretary of Transportation; Honorable Mary E. Peters; Chairman Rosenker; Elaine Weinstein, Director of the Office of Safety Recommendations; Joe Osterman, Managing Director

NTSB Sends Investigators To Metro Accident In Alexandria, Virginia

On November 30, 2006, the National Transportation Safety Board sent two investigators to Alexandria, Virginia, to investigate an accident involving two Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) employees who were struck by an empty train on the Yellow Line, fatally injuring both employees.

Ruben Payan serves as the Investigator-in-Charge. Chairman Rosenker served as the principal spokesperson and conducted press conferences on the status of the investigation. Keith Holloway is the public affairs officer for the accident.



NTSB Represented at the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance

The NTSB was actively represented at a meeting of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance in Indianapolis, December 5-7. Member Hersman was the keynote speaker to more than 150 representatives of state and federal safety agencies, enforcement, and manufacturers gathered to discuss air brake safety. Larry Yohe, HS-20, also gave a presentation about recent highway investigations involving air brake issues, and Michele McMurtry, HS-30, was a moderator and one of the meeting planners. The meeting was a follow-up to the CVSA's first air brake meeting held five years ago.

Member Hersman addresses the 2006 Rail Industry Safety and Operations Conference

Member Debbie Hersman addressed the 2006 Rail Industry Safety and Operations Conference in San Antonio, Texas, November 30. The conference was hosted by the Association of American Railroads and the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association. Member Hersman presented a slide show of photographs from recently completed and on-going rail accident investigations to about 125 representatives from Class 1 railroads, regional railroads, transit railroads, rail shippers, industry suppliers, and rail safety professionals. Jim Remines of RPH-10 assisted Member Hersman in preparing the slide presentation.

Vice Chairman Sumwalt visits Seattle

Vice Chairman Robert Sumwalt traveled to Seattle, Washington this week visiting Alaska Airlines' Flight Ops and Training Center. At the training center the Vice Chairman received a presentation on the airline's required navigation performance (RNP) procedures and was able to practice those procedures in their 737 flight simulator. He also visited Boeing's manufacturing facility in Everett, Washington and received an update on the production of the new 787 aircraft. While out west, the Vice Chairman took the opportunity to meet with investigators in the NTSB's Northwest Regional Office.

Final Edition of the Chairman's Corner for 2006

This will be the final edition of the Chairman's Corner for 2006. Please look for the first edition of 2007 to arrive on January 12, 2007. The Chairman would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year!



Welcome New Employees!



Robert V. Combs
Attorney Advisor
Office of the General Counsel



Roger D. Cox
Air Safety Investigator
Office of Aviation Safety
(Operations)

